

Seattle Fire Prevention Division

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Seattle Fire Department Implementation of The Compliance Engine

Helpful FAQs for Building Owners

- **Why is the Seattle Fire Department contracting with Brycer to enhance the confidence testing program?** To ensure we deliver on our mission of protecting life and property. The Compliance Engine (TCE) is the vehicle that will track all the fire protections systems in Seattle and when they are due for their confidence testing, as well as ensure that maintenance on deficient systems is accomplished. TCE is the most cost effective way for the City to enforce our fire code with the goal of keeping our buildings, residents, visitors and firefighters safe.
- **Why was Brycer chosen as the vendor for the SFD?** The alignment of Brycer's mission and services is the best fit for Seattle's confidence testing needs. TCE's ease of use for both service providers and SFD staff was a key criterion in our selection process. TCE's experience, references, and results in large cities utilizing TCE stand alone in the market. The price point for services offered was the most economical for both Seattle and the Service Providers. We were able through competitive bid to identify the partner with the best quality solution to ensure success in our confidence testing program. In addition, several other neighboring cities and jurisdictions have already implemented TCE, so this provides a more consistent regional approach to systems testing oversight.
- **Who can see my building's systems and reports on TCE?** The list of systems in your building is private and is not made available to service providers. Service providers will only be able to record test results for the systems they test and will not be able to see what other systems are in your building.
- **Won't this program overwhelm the SFD with information?** No, case studies show that 85 percent of the administrative time associated with addressing the reports submitted by testers is alleviated. The SFD will have dedicated resources addressing deficient systems and buildings.
- **Pricing?** The fee is \$30 per system type, per property. Most system types require testing once a year so the fee will be required once a year. We will also collect \$30 for the repair report.
- **Are quarterly tests required to pay additional fees?** No. After the first test is submitted and the \$30 fee is paid, additional test for that system can be submitted without incurring an additional fee until the following year. We would prefer that the providers submit test reports as those tests occur and you will not incur an additional fee for doing so.
- **What will the SFD be using the cost recovery money from the \$30 fee for?** A portion of the fee is used to pay the Brycer team for their technology and service offering. The additional funds are used to fund dedicated personnel for the SFD to manage the program and support compliance with the fire code requirements relating to fire protection systems.
- **Will the overall cost be locked or guaranteed? What keeps it from not inflating?** We have a contract with Brycer and any fee increase will need to be approved by the SFD.
- **Will we be charged per riser, floor and/or flow switch?** No.
- **How does this impact premises or those responsible for maintaining life safety systems?** TCE levels the playing field for all buildings, reducing property loss, preserving community assets, increasing quality inspections, and reducing the risk from unmaintained and untested properties.

- **Has Seattle talked with other cities using The Compliance Engine to understand their experience?** Yes. The SFD has discussed the use of TCE with several cities and the feedback has been positive. These conversations have been instrumental in assisting us with the selection of TCE and how to best implement TCE into our confidence testing program.
- **How will the initial database of properties and fire protection systems be created in The Compliance Engine?** Brycer and the SFD have been compiling the database for several months. We have identified roughly 25K unique fire protection systems and their property information. Our goal is to have most of the database built before going live with report submittal. That said, we understand that the database will not be 100% correct. We look forward to building on our partnership with the contractors to fill in missing properties, systems and contact information. This is another key reason for selecting Brycer to partner with as the database is critical component to a successful program
- **How will Brycer affect management of my building's systems?** Brycer will make it easier to manage the inspection and testing of your systems by tracking system due dates and sending reminder notices 30 days before your inspection is due. Brycer will also help you track systems that require maintenance and ensure reinspections occur in a timely manner.
- **When will an overdue notice be sent to my property?** An overdue notice will not be sent to a property for 30 days following the month that the system was due to be tested. This allows for scheduling conflicts and grants time to submit the report before a property is notified.
- **Does this change the frequency of testing required?** Testing requirements have not changed. Please refer to our Client Assistance Memo (CAM) for testing frequencies.

For more information, visit...

www.thecomplianceengine.com

www.seattle.gov/fire/FMO/confidenceTesting/ct.htm

For questions, please contact:

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